

45. A non-destructive sample assay of claim 24 wherein said measuring step includes:
detecting sample presence on said one side of said membrane.

REMARKS

The application has been amended. Claims 16, 23 and 30 have been amended, claims 31-37 have been cancelled and new claims 38-45 are presented herewith. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

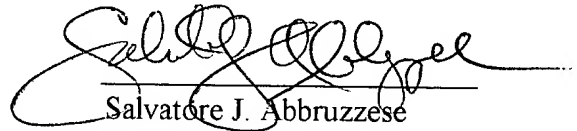
The present application is a continuation of prior reissue application Serial No. 09/159,427 filed September 23, 1998 which is a reissue of U.S. Patent No 5,601,997. In the prosecution of the parent application original claims 1-15 have been indicated as being allowable. This indication is gratefully acknowledged. Claims 16-37 were rejected in the prior application. Independent claims 16, 23 and 30 have been amended to more fully define the present invention. In prior prosecution the Examiner has indicated that the art rejections have been removed and that the claims define over the art of record. It is respectfully submitted that the amended claims herewith similarly define patentably over the art and that the claims are adequately supported by the specification.

In an effort to advance prosecution of the present applications, claims 31-37 are hereby cancelled. Furthermore, new claims 38-45 are presented herewith. As with claims 16-30, these claims submitted as being patentably distinct from the art of record. Also, these claims more specifically claim the embodiments of the present invention and therefore are deemed to be adequately supported by the specification.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss this application in further detail, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney by telephone at (973) 331-1700.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Salvatore J. Abbruzzese", written over a horizontal line.

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